

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

LINDA LINGLE

GOVERNOR

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ANNUAL CLOSURE OF 'AMA 'AMA (STRIPED MULLET) SEASON TAKES EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2008

HONOLULU— The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) reminds the fishing public that the season for 'ama'ama (striped mullet) will be **closed** from Monday, December 1, 2008 through Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

"Ama'ama are about to enter their peak spawning season," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson. "The annual winter closure is designed to allow the fish to reproduce successfully and protect the species from overfishing."

Violations of the size or season restrictions can result in fines of up to \$500 and/or 30 days in jail, plus up to \$100 for each fish taken.

"We ask the public's kokua in complying with the closed season," said Thielen. "While it's DLNR's job to protect our marine resources, everyone shares in the responsibility to take care of important fish species like 'ama'ama to ensure their survival into the future."

Copies of statewide fishing regulations for 'ama'ama and all other marine species are available in Honolulu at the DLNR-Aquatics office, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330, and at all neighbor island DLNR-Aquatics offices. To report fish catch size or net violations, call 587-0077 on O'ahu, or 643-DLNR (643-3567) after hours or from the neighbor islands.

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